

85971

DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION

00 JUN 27 PM 3:00

May 15, 2000

TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMIN.
2000 JUN -9 PM 3:00
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMIN.

Administrator
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: Elizabeth Fisher's Petition for an amendment to SEC. 571.209 Standard No. 209, Seat Belt Assemblies

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter is in support of Elizabeth Fisher's Petition for an amendment to SEC. 571.209 Standard No. 209, Seat Belt Assemblies.

I am an active woman of size. I am 5'5" and weigh approximately 320 pounds. I also drive a Honda. (Honda does not provide and is unwilling to provide seat belts that fit all of it's customers.) I was pulled over in Torrance, CA in June of 1999 because I was not wearing my seat belt. The arresting officer had me show him that the belt would not fit. I was then berated by the officer for not wearing the belt and was told that I would need to get another vehicle if I could not comply with the law as it was written. I told him that Honda did not comply with the State Laws by not providing or producing a belt that would fit me and that there was no after market product available. Again, I was told that I was not in compliance with the law and he ticketed me.

I fought the ticket in September of 1999. I cited laws as they are written, both the Federal and the State laws. Given that I am not "disabled" the court ruled in the States favor and the ticket stands.

I was and am ready and willing to comply with the law, and indeed I want very much to comply with the law, but cannot do so due to the intervening actions of third parties, including the US government and the manufacturer of my car. To hold me criminally/quasi-criminally liable for violating the law under these circumstances is not just unfair. It violates my constitutional right to due process of law: in effect, I was and still am being held criminally liable under one law for the perfectly legal acts of third parties performed pursuant to another law.

page 2

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

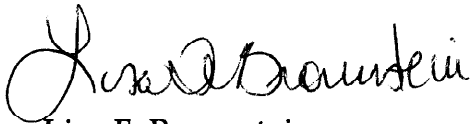
May 15, 2000

These laws, as they are written, allow for auto manufacturers, like Honda, to essentially discriminate as well as endanger their customers by hiding behind the laws of the US Government to violate the laws of the State, in order to save money rather than save lives. In the state of California, if a person buys a vehicle that person is required to have that vehicle insured before they can legally drive it off the lot. However, if a person can't buckle their seat belt then the manufacturer should be required to comply with the safety belt laws by being liable and being required to sell a car with a belt that fits or a means (an extension of some kind) to wear a belt.

I support and promote this petition to amend SEC. 571.209 Standard No. 209, Seat Belt Assemblies for the safety of all individuals who drive motor vehicles.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa F. Brounstein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lisa" being more prominent.

Lisa F. Brounstein
719 N. Harper Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90046
(323) 651-1261